

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraphs [0001], [0043], [0056], with the following:

[0001] This ~~claims~~ is a continuation-in-part of priority to U.S. Application Ser. No. 10/302,096, filed November 22, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,850,590, which claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) from provisional U.S. Application Serial Number 60/331,993, filed on November 23, 2001, both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

[0043] Figure 5 is a schematic mammogram obtained using the comfort devices comprising partially radiopaque identifiers in accordance with the present invention. Figure 6 is an x-ray transparent cover comprising indicia. Figure 7A is an example of an x-ray transparent cover comprising indicia that can be draped over a cushioned cassette holder. Figure 7B is an example of an x-ray transparent cover comprising indicia that can be fitted over a cushioned cassette holder and support arm, where the cover has optional side openings. Figure 8 is an x-ray transparent cover comprising indicia which is offset from a cassette holder which has a compressible x-ray transparent material.

[0056] Location of an identifier on a mammogram is preferably outside the area of where the breast is imaged. The partially radiopaque identifier can be located, either permanently or temporarily, for example, on a top surface of an x-ray transparent compressible material, or on a bottom surface, or even within the body of the material. Should more than one layer of compressible material be used, an identifier can be located between the layers. The identifier can also be removably attached to the compressible material, using a radiotranslucent fastener, for example tape. In some instances, it may be desirable to locate the identifier on a surface of the compression paddle or cassette holder or both. As shown in Figure 6, An identifier one or more identifiers 202 can also be located on or within an x-ray transparent cover 200 which in turn can be positioned below or above the compressible material as desired. Figure 7A depicts one embodiment exemplifying a combination of an x-ray transparent cover 200 comprising indicia 202 which is draped over the compressible material 17 of a cassette holder 4 which is positioned on a support arm 5. Openings 12 and 14 are provided in the compressible material, but due to the draped-nature of the transparent cover 200, corresponding openings in the cover are optional. Figure 7B

shows another embodiment of an x-ray transparent cover 200 comprising indicia 202 which fits around a cassette holder 4 having compressible material 17 wherein the cassette holder 4 is positioned on a support arm 5. The transparent cover 200 optionally comprises at least one opening 204 which is adapted to permit a mammography unit cassette to pass therethrough and can conform to surround the compressible material 17 and support arm 5. Figure 8 shows an x-ray transparent cover 200 comprising indicia 202 and an optional opening 204, the cover being offset from a cassette holder 4 having compressible material 17, which optionally also has indicia 90. An identifier can simply be a radiopaque material, for example metal (or plastic or paper) which is placed on a comfort device before a mammogram is taken. Indicia which impart information about the comfort device can be x-ray transparent when the rest of the identifier is radiopaque. On the other hand, should the indicia be radiopaque, then the remaining material of the identifier would be radiotranslucent.

Please replace the ABSTRACT with the following:

~~Comfort devices~~ Devices for use with a mammography unit and for patient comfort ~~comprising~~ comprise an x-ray transparent compressible material and a ~~partially~~ radiopaque identifier. ~~The identifier can comprise indicia which imparts information onto a mammogram about physical and other characteristics of the material that affect image quality the comfort device onto a mammogram.~~ The identifier is generally affixed to the material, and, for example, it can be sealed within the material. The material substantially conforms to patient contact surfaces of a cassette holder (bucky) or a compression paddle and, in one example, contains openings can be included for passing a mammography unit cassette through for insertion into the cassette holder to accommodate passage of a cassette therethrough. The devices are for single use or reusable. The indicia can provide properties of the compressible material which can affect image quality. An identifier can impart information onto a mammogram in an area away from the breast image and can serve to alert a viewer that image quality may have been compromised by cushioning material. Comfort devices can also be used with a mammography unit compression paddle. The indicia appear in a second area of the mammogram and serve to alert the viewer that the compression paddle was cushioned. Cassette holders and compression paddles can be adapted with x ray transparent covers comprising partially radiopaque identifiers in conjunction with comfort

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~~devices that indicate that such a device was used during mammography.~~ X-ray transparent disposable covers used over the devices can also have a radiopaque identifier keyed to desired information about, for example, physical and other characteristics of the material that affect image quality. All information appears away from the breast image.